

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts the teeth wherein the base is preformed;

a first wall extending from the flat surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the flat surface wherein the second wall defines an exterior surface

a slot in the base wherein the slot is between the first wall and the second wall wherein the slot extends from a first portion of the base to a second portion of the base wherein the slot defines a width of the flat occlusal surface wherein the width increases from the first portion of the base which contacts a front of the mouth to a second portion which extends further rearward in the mouth and further wherein the second portion of the slot accommodates canine type of teeth of the user.

Claim 2 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the first portion contacts an incisor type of tooth.

Claim 3 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the

second portion contacts a canine type of tooth.

Claim 4 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the interior surface wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth of the user.

Claim 5 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is constructed from a moisture-absorbent material.

Claim 6 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is softer than the second material.

Claim 7 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

suction cups formed with the base.

Claim 8 (original): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth wherein one of the types of teeth is canine teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface which contacts the teeth when the base is worn; and

wedges formed within the occlusal surface wherein each of the wedges form an apex which extends toward a canine tooth and contacts the canine tooth to move the canine tooth to prevent malocclusion within the mouth.

Claim 9 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 further

comprising:

a second base attached to the U-shaped base wherein the second base has an occlusal surface.

Claim 10 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:

one or more sockets wherein the sockets are shaped to receive a second type of teeth wherein the type is not canine teeth.

Claim 11 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 wherein the base is thicker in an area which contacts a first type of teeth than a second area that contacts a second type of teeth.

Claim 12 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 13 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 wherein the base is sized to contact at least one of the teeth but not all of the teeth.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base;

sockets within the base wherein at least one of the sockets is preformed; and

a suction cup extending from the base wherein the suction

cup has a concave surface which contacts the mouth and adheres to the mouth to prevent movement of the base when the base is worn in the mouth.

Claim 15 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the suction cup is removably attached to the base.

Claim 16 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the sockets are preformed.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein at least one of the sockets is customized.

Claim 18 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 further comprising:

wedges formed on the base wherein the wedges contact the teeth of the user.

Claim 19 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the sockets are flat.

Claim 20 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner has a surface which contacts the mouth to prevent the base from moving within the mouth.

Claim 21 (previously presented): Dental appliances worn consecutively by a user to treat a malocclusion, the dental appliances comprising:

a first device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user; and

a second device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user and wherein the second device is sized larger than the first device.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is sized to treat a first type of dentition and the second device is sized to treat a second type of dentition wherein the first type of dentition and the second type of dentition are different.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is preformed.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is customized.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is created from stereolithography.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is created from a digital model.

Claim 27 (previously presented): Dental appliances worn consecutively by a user to treat a malocclusion as a dentition of the user changes, the dental appliances comprising:

a first device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user wherein the first device is sized to treat a first type of dentition; and

a second device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user wherein the second device is sized to treat a second type of dentition wherein the first type of dentition and the second type of dentition are different.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a deciduous dentition.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a mixed dentition.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a permanent dentition.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the occlusal surface of the first device has at least one socket.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first device is preformed.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first device is customized.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim

27 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the first device.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts the teeth;

a first wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the second wall defines an exterior surface and wherein the first wall and the second wall define a width of the occlusal surface; and

a wire embedded within the base wherein the wire extends from a top surface of the second wall and contacts the teeth.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a first socket within the occlusal surface having a first size; and

a second socket within the occlusal surface having a second size wherein the first size and the second size are different.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a labial shield extending from the second wall wherein the

labial shield covers the teeth.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the first wall wherein the lingual tabs extend into the mouth.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

suction cups extending from the occlusal surface.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a reline material on the occlusal surface.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is softer than the second material.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a vertical slit on the exterior surface.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts the teeth; and

at least one socket within the occlusal surface wherein the socket is shaped based on anatomical standards for teeth.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the socket is sized to receive two or more teeth.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the socket is sized to receive one tooth.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is worn.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the flat occlusal surface is sized to receive two or more teeth.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner causes adhesion between the base and the teeth.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim

44 further comprising:

a labial shield extending from the second wall wherein the labial shield covers the teeth.

Claim 52 (previously presented): A method for diagnosing an orthodontic condition of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing analysis means for the patient to analyze a position of one or more teeth within a mouth of the patient; and

displaying a tooth arrangement to which the patient compares the position of the one or more teeth.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 further comprising the step of:

distributing a dental appliance to the patient after the patient compares the position of the one or more teeth.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a ruler.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a mirror.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a packaging displaying an image of teeth.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a camera.

Claim 58 (new): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user

having teeth wherein a first tooth is a canine tooth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface which contacts the teeth when the base is worn by the user wherein the occlusal surface has a first area wherein the first area accommodates the canine tooth; and

an incisal edge within the first area of the occlusal surface wherein the incisal edge inclines outward with respect to the with occlusal surface and contacts the canine tooth to move the canine tooth to prevent malocclusion within the mouth.
Claim 59 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 58 further comprising:

a second base attached to the U-shaped base wherein the second base has an occlusal surface.

Claim 60 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 58 further comprising:

one or more sockets wherein the sockets are shaped to receive a second tooth wherein the second tooth is not a canine tooth.

Claim 61 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 58 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 62 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 58 wherein the

occlusal surface has a second area shaped to receive a second tooth wherein the second tooth is not a canine tooth.

Claim 63 (new): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or

more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts the teeth of the user;

a first wall extending from the flat surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the flat surface wherein the second wall defines an exterior surface; and

a slot in the base wherein the slot is between the first wall and the second wall wherein the slot defines a width of the flat occlusal surface wherein the slot has a first portion, a second portion, a third portion and a fourth portion wherein the width continuously increases from the first portion of the base which contacts an incisor type of tooth to a fourth portion which contacts a molar type of tooth of the user and further wherein the second portion and the third portion contact teeth between the incisor type of tooth and the molar type tooth.

Claim 64 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 63 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the interior surface wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth of the user.

Claim 65 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 63 wherein the base is constructed from a moisture-absorbent material.

Claim 66 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 63 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is softer than the second material.

Claim 67 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 63 further comprising:

suction cups formed with the base.

Claim 68 (new): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts the teeth and further wherein the base is preformed; and

a socket within the flat occlusal surface wherein the socket is shaped to receive at least one of the teeth of the user.

Claim 69 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 68 wherein the socket is sized to receive two or more teeth of the user.

Claim 70 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 68 wherein the socket is customized to receive at least one of the teeth of the user.

Claim 71 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 68 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is worn.

Claim 72 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 68 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 73 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 68 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner causes adhesion between the base and the teeth of the user.

Claim 74 (new): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base;

sockets within the base wherein one of the sockets receives at least one of the teeth of the user; and

a liner in one of the sockets wherein the liner contacts the mouth and prevents movement of the base when the base is worn in the mouth.

Claim 75 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 74 wherein one of the sockets is customized to receive at least one of the teeth of the user.

Claim 76 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 74 wherein the

base is preformed.

Claim 77 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 74 further comprising:

wedges formed on the base wherein the wedges contact the teeth of the user.

Claim 78 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 74 wherein one of the sockets is flat.

Claim 79 (new): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts the teeth;

a socket within the flat occlusal surface wherein the socket is shaped to receive one or more of the teeth of the user; and

a rib on the flat occlusal surface wherein the rib contacts one or more of the teeth and further wherein the rib guides one or more teeth of the user.

Claim 80 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 79 wherein the base is preformed.

Claim 81 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 79 wherein the socket is customized to receive one or more teeth of the user.

Claim 82 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 79 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is worn.

Claim 83 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 79 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 84 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 79 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner causes adhesion between the base and the teeth of the user.

Claim 85 (new): A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts the teeth wherein the base is preformed and designed by a computer; and

sockets within the flat occlusal surface wherein one of the sockets receives one or more teeth of the user.

Claim 86 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 85 wherein the base is molded from a computer program

Claim 87 (new): The dental appliance of Claim 85 wherein the base is molded by a vacuum, a pressure type device or stereolithography.